

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF A GRANT FOR COORDINATION OF A TEEN PREGNANCY REDUCTION INNOVATIONS PROJECT IN REGION IV

Review Criteria

SUMMARY: The Office of Family Planning (OFP) of the Office of the Regional Health Administrator (ORHA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Region IV, requests applications for a grant under Project Grant and Contracts for Family Planning Services, Section 1001 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 300a-2). This grant is for the coordination/facilitation of solicited applications from community based organizations in Region IV. These applications will propose new innovations for assessing the determinants of teen pregnancy, and for developing teen-relevant information, education, communication and motivation programs. Coordination will include distribution of announcements, arranging for application development and writing technical assistance activities, receipt of applications, screening applications, arranging for the transfer of funds to the final awardees, and assistance with regular follow-up and program evaluation. Activities under the grant will be limited to Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee).

DATES: To receive consideration, applications must be postmarked no later than August 15, 2000. Applications will be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either (1) received on or before the deadline date, or (2) postmarked on or before the deadline date and received in time for submission to the review committee. A legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or the U.S. Postal Service will be accepted in lieu of a postmark. Private metered postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely mailing. Applications which are postmarked or delivered to the Grants Management Office later than Close of Business on August 15, 2000 will be determined to be late and will not be accepted for review. Applications which do not conform to the requirements of the program announcement will not be accepted for review. Applicants with applications which are not accepted will be notified, and applications will be returned.

ADDRESSES: Requests for application kits may be faxed to (404) 562-7899. Application kits may also be obtained from, and applications must be submitted to, Office of Grants Management, U.S. Public Health Service, DHHS, 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 5B95, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8909.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Cristino Rodriguez, Regional Program Consultant for Family Planning, at (404)562-7900 or Joyce McIntyre, at (404) 562-7901, is available for assistance on scientific, technical and program aspects, or June Faizi, Grants Management Specialist, at (404) 562-7902 is available for assistance with business management issues. Staff are available to answer questions and provide limited technical assistance in the preparation of grant applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title X of the PHS Act, 42 U.S.C. 300a-2, et seq., authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for projects under Project Grant and Contracts for Family Planning Services. This notice announces the availability of funds to

coordinate a Region-wide project that will award funding to several successful applicants throughout the Region. These successful applicants will conduct innovative community-based teen pregnancy prevention demonstration projects in Region IV. Approximately \$150,000 (including indirect costs) is available, within a total grant of approximately \$650,000, for coordination of this Teen Pregnancy Reduction Innovations Project. Remaining funds will be awarded to community-based organizations. The successful applicant for coordination of the Teen Pregnancy Reduction Innovations Project will be responsible for the following activities:

- . Facilitate the development and distribution of announcements;
- . Arrange for application development and writing technical assistance activities, and conduct those activities;
- . Receive and screen applications;
- . Assist in assembling an objective review committee;
- . Arrange for the transfer of funds to the final awardees (located and operating within the eight Region IV states);
- . Conduct follow-up and evaluation activities.

The primary role of the grantee will be to facilitate/coordinate this proposed project, not to develop policy guidelines for the project.

The principal intent of this project is to coordinate activities in support of new, developmental innovations in Region IV communities which can be adopted by local, state or Title X funding agencies.

The coordination grant will be awarded on or before September 30, 2000, for a period of one year. Continuation awards for up to two additional years may be made depending upon the availability of funding, the satisfactory progress of the project, and stewardship of funds. Grants are funded in annual increments (budget periods). Funding for all approved budget periods beyond the first year of a grant is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the project, and adequate stewardship of Federal funds.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: Any public or private non-profit organization or agency is eligible to apply for this grant. The grant will be awarded only to an organization or agency which is determined to demonstrate capability for providing the proposed services, meets the statutory requirements, and maintains an office in the Region.

PURPOSE OF THE GRANT: Under this announcement, funds are available for the purpose of coordinating a project that will encourage the design and implementation of new, developmental innovative approaches in Region IV communities for serving adolescents and developing partnerships with community-based organizations that are involved in the prevention of teen pregnancy. The term "community", under this announcement, encompasses a variety of groups that may include local, state or regional entities and individual organizations.

The proposed project makes the assumption that contraceptives and contraceptive information are reasonably available to all urban, semi-urban, and many rural teens. This has been accomplished and sustained by state, county, and local health departments in combination with other primary care providers such as community and migrant health centers and rural health centers. However, the determinants of teen pregnancy are not well researched. They are not often understood by the community. They are not sufficiently included in information, communications, education, and motivation program activities for teens. Even when determinants are known, they may not have been introduced appropriately to at-risk teens. The Teen Pregnancy Reduction Innovations Project is designed to address these shortcomings.

The proposed project will coordinate and facilitate the solicitation of innovative applications from community-based organizations in Region IV. Coordination will include the development of specific announcement(s) inviting community-based organizations to submit succinct applications proposing new innovations in assessing the determinants of teen pregnancy, and developing teen-relevant information, education, communication and motivation programs. Applicants for these community-based demonstration projects will be encouraged to consider new and innovative approaches for which funding is not usually available to community-based organizations. The successful applicant for coordination of this project will distribute announcements, arrange for grant development and writing technical assistance activities, receipt of applications, screening applications, arranging for the transfer of funds to final community-based awardees, and assistance with regular follow-up and evaluation.

To facilitate strong community-based project designs and applications, the successful applicant will offer a technical assistance workshop to interested individuals and groups on an annual basis. The one to two-day workshop will be conducted by the successful applicant and Region IV staff, in Atlanta and/or in other cities relatively central to this Region.

The successful applicant will be required to work closely with the Region IV Regional Health Administrator (RHA), and the Regional Office of Family Planning staff. Also, the applicant will be required to work with a network of other PHS/DHHS agencies, state and local health agencies, State Family Planning Training Coordinators, and community-based organizations. The successful applicant will be required to review and consider policy and program goals of the Title X Family Planning Program, solicit advice and counsel from the Regional Training Advisory Committee, and consult with Title X service delivery providers about services to teens (male and female). We emphasize that the primary role of the successful applicant will be to coordinate and facilitate this proposed project, not develop policy guidelines for the project.

The successful applicant must be responsive to direction provided by the PHS/DHHS project officer or designee. All program objectives must have prior approval by the PHS/DHHS project officer before implementation. For the purposes of this announcement, "program objectives" are subsets of the intended goals identified in the grant application. Any training events shall be approved, in advance, by the PHS/DHHS project officer or designee.

Applicants for this grant must meet requirements of the Title X regulations, must demonstrate knowledge of reproductive health needs in Region IV, and the ability to work with and obtain information from Title X grantees, State Family Planning Training Coordinators, and other interested individuals and groups in Region IV. In developing the application, applicants responding to this announcement should be sensitive to the importance of supporting the program priorities of the Title X services program.

EVALUATION: All applicants for this coordination grant are required to have an evaluation component of high quality consistent with the scope of the project and funding level. Project evaluations should monitor the coordination/facilitation activities and processes to determine whether the project is being carried out as planned, and to measure project outcomes. This evaluation component would also include strategies for the evaluation of the community-based projects which are selected for demonstration funding.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- . Applications must be submitted on the forms supplied (PHS-5161-1) (OMB Approval No. 0973-0189) and in the manner prescribed in the application kits available from the Office of Grants Management, Region IV. Applicants are required to submit an application signed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency or organization, and to assume for the agency or organization the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the grant award. Applicants are required to submit an original application and two (2) copies.
- . Accepted applications will be subjected to a competitive review process. The results of this review will assist the Region IV RHA in considering competing applications and in making the final funding decision.
- . The successful applicant must be physically located within Region IV, and must be readily available to meet with Region IV staff as necessary and requested. Also, the successful applicant must be knowledgeable regarding reproductive health needs in Region IV, and must have demonstrated the ability to work with and obtain information from Title X grantees, State Family Planning Training Coordinators, and various community groups within the Region.
- . Any public or private non-profit organization or agency is eligible to apply for this grant.
- . The successful applicant must be able to coordinate and facilitate technical assistance and training activities for potential community-based demonstration projects in Region IV.
- . A copy of the legislation and regulations governing this program will be sent to applicants as part of the application kit. Applicants should use the legislation, regulations and information included in this announcement to guide them in developing their applications. Applications

should be 35 to 50 double-spaced pages, not including appendices providing curriculum vitae or statements of organizational capabilities.

REVIEW UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372: Applicants under this announcement are not subject to the review requirements of Executive Order 12372.

APPLICATION CONSIDERATION AND ASSESSMENT: Eligible grant applications will be reviewed by a multi disciplinary panel of reviewers, and will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates knowledge of reproductive health needs in Region IV states. (15 points)
2. The applicant's demonstrated experience in working with and obtaining information from Title X grantees in Region IV, State Family Planning Training Coordinators, and other interested individuals and groups in the Region, and sensitivity to the importance of supporting the program priorities of the Title X services program. (25 points)
3. The applicant's presentation of an appropriate project design, consistent with the requirements of Title X, including a clear statement of goals and objectives, reasonable methods for attaining the objectives, a reasonable work plan and timetable, a clear statement of results or benefits anticipated, and an evaluation plan which indicates an understanding of program evaluation methods and reflects a practical, technically sound approach to assessing the achievement of objectives. (25 points)
4. The administrative and management capability and competence of the project staff and applicant organization, including evidence of the ability of the applicant to maintain frequent and direct contact with Regional Office staff and with applicants for community-based demonstration projects in the eight states of Region IV. (15 points)
5. The applicant's demonstrated ability to coordinate training and technical assistance activities at various locations throughout Region IV, and experience in developing and conducting training and coordination/facilitation activities. (10 points)
6. The capacity of the applicant to make rapid and effective use of the grant, including appropriate geographic distribution of resources for demonstration projects within the Region. (10 points)

The final grant award decision will be made by the Region IV RHA. In making that decision, the Region IV RHA will take the assessments of the multi-disciplinary review panel on these criteria into consideration.

The PHS/DHHS does not release information about individual applications during the review process, until final funding decisions have been made. When these decisions have been made, applicants will be notified by letter of the outcome of their applications. The official document notifying an applicant that the application has been approved for funding is the Notice of Grant Award, which specified to the grantee the amount of money awarded, the purpose of the grant, and the terms and conditions of the grant award.